

TWENTY-FIRST

ANNUAL ADDRESS

AND REPORT

TO THE

Mechanics' Institute,

BY

A. S. HALLIDIE, President.

Delivered at their Rooms June 9th, 1877.

SAN FRANCISCO :

WM. JOHNSTONE & Co., Book and Job Printers, 414 Market Street.

1877.

THE
Mechanics' Institute

ORGANIZED MARCH 29 1855.

Incorporated Dec. 6, 1869.

Building of the Association, No. 27 Post St.

LIBRARY HOURS, 9 A. M. TO 10 P. M.

Terms of Membership:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| <i>Initiation Fee, on entering,</i> | - - - | \$1.00 |
| <i>Quarterly Dues, in advance,</i> | - - - | 1.50 |
| <i>Life Membership,</i> | - - - | 50.00 |

(Entitling the person to all the privileges of Membership.)

OFFICERS—1876.

A. S. HALLIDIE, PRESIDENT.

P. B. CORNWALL, VICE-PRESIDENT.

H. L. DAVIS, TREASURER.

JAS. DUFFY, RECORDING SECRETARY.

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H. L. HUTCHINSON,

JAMES B. STETSON,

A. L. FISH,

C. WATERHOUSE.

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To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute.

The report herewith presented embraces the year ending June 1, 1877, and contains but little of interest with respect to progress in the Mechanics' Institute; comparatively few books have been purchased and the efforts of your Trustees have been devoted to rearranging and guarding that which we have, furnishing facilities for our increasing membership, and increasing the fixed revenues so as to place the Institute on a firm basis for future action and greater usefulness.

The alterations made in the basement and first story of this building, and in the interior arrangement of the second and third floors, have involved considerable outlay, but have likewise largely increased the revenue from rentals, and provided room for the valuable books which had just previously been purchased or donated. The very great value of the works of reference—many sets of books it would be almost impossible to replace, and which have taken years to complete and place on the shelves of our library—has compelled the Trustees to recognize the fact that, like all valuable property, liable to removal, they must be carefully protected and guarded against careless handling, thoughtless abuse, and possibly theft.

Although for eight years no books have been allowed to be removed from the Reference Library Room, yet, in spite of this well-known and recognized order, and the vigilance of the Librarians, some of our most valuable books have been carried off and not returned.

As the Trustees are bound to protect the books in the library, for the benefit of all the members, the comparatively small inconvenience that any one person may meet by restrictions made for the general good should be borne and acquiesced in,

Particularly in reference to the books in the west room, where the invaluable gift of the British Government is kept, do the foregoing remarks apply, and the Trustees have extended a convenient paneled counter around the shelves, and placed the books in charge of an attendant who is on hand to procure such books as are called for, under the rules of the library.

The need of additional shelf-room has long been felt, and this has been temporarily met by the shelving obtained back of the counter referred to, in the west room, but this will soon be exhausted, as the number of volumes obtained annually by the "continuations" alone amount to many hundred.

The necessities of the reading-room are also very great, and that room is often so crowded that many members have to stand, all the available seats being occupied. It has been for some time past a matter of serious concern for the Trustees to meet the wants of the reading-room without encroaching on the revenues of the Society, or the convenience of our members.

In every respect the accommodations for the requirements of the Society are inadequate, and for some time past the Trustees and members have felt the necessity of a building provided with rooms which shall accommodate the library and reading-rooms, lecture-hall, class-rooms, museum, etc., which properly form a part of this Mechanics' Institute.

The increasing value of the library and expanding usefulness of this Society requires not only that its facilities be increased, but that the books be kept in rooms affording greater security against fire than now provided.

The present depression in almost every branch of trade in this city has thrown out of employment a large number of industrious mechanics and laboring men, and demonstrates how much we depend upon one or two interests alone for our prosperity. With a more diversified industry this result would not be as general, nor could it be as disastrous. Of what we consume we manufacture here but little, the increase of manufacturing must depend on the manufacturers themselves. Such industries stand only on their own merits and by the tenacity

of those interested in the enterprise. There is but little sympathy and less practical support from the outside, and if a manufacturer fails in business, not only is the enterprise in which he may have been engaged tabooed, but he himself loses caste and the confidence of the public; whereas, when a merchant fails, he compounds or compromises and goes on again, apparently rich in the confidence of his class, and richer in capital. All this must be changed before we can expect to succeed as an earnest, industrious, producing people.

It is true much sentiment has been expended upon home industry and home manufacture, but it requires more than mere sentiment to sustain these and to pay the wages of those who toil by the sweat of their brow, and who direct by the activity of their brain.

The two interests of importer and of home manufacturer are not in accord or unison; the interest of one is in a great measure antagonistic to that of the other, and yet, while they might harmonize here, as in any other young community, it is a race legitimate enough, as trade goes, but oftentimes, and usually, disastrous to the working man. And beside the causes incidental to the above, and which are internal, there are external ones which operate equally as fatally against the interests and intellectual national growth of our industrious natural population.

Nothing can resist the leveling effect of a tidal wave on the unprotected sea-board town, or that of the mighty flood on the peaceful valley hamlet; so, when a vast herd of humanity, accustomed to slave in the substratum of life, and exist on what would starve our own people, rushes in and snatches from the higher-grade artisan his trade, his avocation, his livelihood, the displacement means disaster to the latter, and cannot be looked on without concern and alarm, especially when we do not find in the invading army any symptoms of assimilation, of patriotism, of greater morality or eventual citizenship.

But the immigration of vast numbers of laborers, willing to work for a smaller recompense than an American mechanic can live on—willing to occupy quarters uninhabitable to any American mechanic who has had a common school education;

unwilling to affiliate with the institutions of this country; unwilling to abandon or even modify their special characteristics; unwilling to live in domestic relation; unwilling to retain the proceeds of their labor in the country of their residence; unwilling to submit to the laws of the commonwealth, requires the most serious attention of the statesman, the patriot, and the political economist, and should be treated from a broad and comprehensive view of the condition and right of American citizens, and their relation to their own country and the world at large.

I take it, the aim of the patriotic manufacturer, one who has the welfare and elevation of the individual as much at heart as the progress and integrity of the nation and its best institutions, is not so much to employ human beings for the sake of the number employed as to employ those who, in their individual capacity, tend to the greater happiness of society and the moral and intellectual advancement of the people.

We need some such a man among us as Sir Titus Salt, of Saltaire, England, who died quite recently, and who, by his patient perseverance, indomitable energy, and broad benevolence, built up a new industry that established a community possessing many of the best elements of promise and progress.

If Sir Titus Salt had been like the majority of manufacturers, he would simply have employed his workmen, paid them their wages when due, and nothing more; but the founder of Saltaire, with a benevolence as broad as his acts were beneficent, determined that his work people should not only have steady employment, at fair compensation, but that they should also be provided with other resources, of a moral, social, and intellectual character.

He built his shops with a regard to sanitary requirements, comfort and cheerfulness, to good order, completeness in details and facility in execution. He laid out a town with seventeen streets of good width, running east and west, and twelve streets running north and south, on which he had built, up to one year ago, about one thousand houses, each with front and back parlor, kitchen, and from two to three bedrooms, and with small

gardens in front. The houses are all substantially built, of a light-colored freestone, and contain nearly five thousand inhabitants.

He appointed a committee of workmen to rent and manage these houses, and take care of the sanitary condition of the town. The rent required for the houses varies from seventy-five cents to one dollar and a quarter per week, which includes all taxes, etc. The town is kept scrupulously clean; no liquor of any kind is permitted in the town; the people are orderly, cleanly, courteous, industrious, and sober. Outside the limits of Saltaire, and across the road, a beer house exists, and in spite of the influence of the Saltaire community, occasionally, but happily rarely, a stray sheep will run over there.

Sir Titus Salt fully appreciated and acknowledged the humanity of man, and realizes that a direct interest in the welfare of his workmen and fellow-beings must be of benefit to them, and tend to enlarge the breadth of his own better nature. Provided with so much that must make the life of his employees comfortable and agreeable, and to insure their physical health, he has gone further, and at an outlay of over \$100,000, has erected and furnished a magnificent stone building, finished in the highest style of art, for the use of his employees, and containing a Reading-room, 35x53, a Library, containing nearly 2,000 volumes, a Chess-room, a Smoking-room, a Billiard-room, 35x53, a Lecture-room, capable of seating 800 persons, a smaller Lecture Hall, with 200 seats, a Laboratory, a Gymnasium, and a Drill Hall, a School of Art, with models, apparatus, etc., a number of Class-rooms, etc., and which, altogether, go to form the Saltaire Club and Institute, having over 1,000 members, the affairs of which are managed by a Board of 15 Trustees, one half being elected by the members and one half by the founder. The fees are 50 cents per quarter, from male, and 25 cents per quarter from female adults; boys pay 25 cents, and girls 12 cents per quarter.

There is a regularly arranged system of tuition here, the science classes being connected with the South Kensington Science and Art Department, and there are taught here, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, drawing, chemistry,

gymnastics, needle-work, etc.; the founder gives this freely to his working people, for their benefit and his satisfaction, and further, in 1858, he built for them a church, beautiful in design, with comfortable, cushioned seats, free to his people, and to this church a chime of six bells was added, in 1870, and, not stopping here, he has built for those who have grown old and infirm in his service 45 comfortable cottages, managed by a Board of Trustees, which shelter with a protecting wing the worn-out machinery of the human frames which have been working under his kindly direction. To close the long list of benefactions of this one man it is proper to add the school-houses for 750 children, a large hospital, a bath-house, and a washing-house, provided with all the most improved machines for washing and drying clothes, and a great many minor institutions which have in view the well-being of his work people.

Here is an example at the present day of what a man, having wealth to sustain him, and a great mind to direct him, may do for the benefit of his fellow-man.

Surely the moral is obvious, and for its application we need not go beyond San Francisco, if but one of its many citizens, whose accumulation of vast wealth has been so great, should put into practice the suggestions contained in the life of Sir Titus Salt.

The Managers of the Twelfth Industrial Exhibition have been for some months past actively engaged in preparing for the forthcoming Fair, and indications are more favorable to a large and successful exhibition than ever before.

A list of premiums, embracing both cash and medals, has been published, and the Managers desire particularly that all industries, especially newly developed, should be exhibited, and the members of the Institute are earnestly requested to call the attention of the Secretary, Mr. J. H. Culver, to anything which they may think worthy of a place in the forthcoming Industrial Exhibition.

While the affairs of the Society have not been marked by any great advance the past year, it is satisfactory to know that the growth of the Mechanics' Institute still continues, both by the addition of books and increase of membership.

During the past year there have been added to the Library 2,310 volumes, as per following classification :

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Science and Art, | 396 |
| Fiction, | 1,080 |
| General Literature and Essays, | 174 |
| Biography, | 74 |
| History, | 108 |
| Poetry and Drama, | 33 |
| Travel, | 92 |
| Law and Political Economy, | 12 |
| Theology and Religion, | 1 |
| Encyclopedias and Dictionaries, | 24 |
| Philosophy, | 3 |
| Sundries, | 9 |
| Bound Newspapers, | 46 |
| Donations, | 258 |
| | 2,310 |

Of the donations, Hon. A. A. Sargent presented 89 vols., Hon. Newton Booth 28 vols., Hon. D. C. McRuer 90 vols., Hon. W. A. Piper 7 vols., Hon. J. K. Luttrell 1 vol., sundry donors 43 vols.

The total number of volumes on your shelves, at this time, is 29,516.

During the year 799 ordinary, and 4 life members have joined the Institute.

The financial condition of the Society for the year ending May 31, 1877, is as follows :

GENERAL FUND.

| RECEIPTS. | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Rents, | \$7,979 00 |
| Membership Dues, | 10,345 14 |
| Managers 11th Fair, | 4,000 00 |
| Life Membership, | 150 00 |
| Sundries, | 51 75 |
| Balance in Treasury, June 1, 1876, | 1,085 72 |

Total, \$23,611 61

| DISBURSEMENTS. | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Interest, | \$1,580 00 |
| Insurance, | 435 00 |
| Books, | 2,670 93 |
| Periodicals and Newspapers, | 1,331 07 |
| Book Binding, | 1,020 30 |
| Advertising, | 189 85 |
| Furniture and Supplies, | 554 24 |
| Sundries, Petty Cash Books, etc., | 1,332 24 |
| Water, | 144 00 |
| Gas, | 1,237 35 |
| Improvements and Repairs, | 5,005 50 |
| Printing, | 131 00 |
| Salaries, | 5,393 06 |
| Sinking Fund, | 1,827 05 |
| Total, | \$22,801 59 |
| Balance in Treasury, May 31, 1877, | 810 02 |

SINKING FUND.

| RECEIPTS. | |
|--|------------|
| Balance on hand June 1, 1876, | \$1,683 90 |
| Ten per cent. of the Receipts for the Year, | 1,868 52 |
| Total, | \$3,552 42 |

DISBURSEMENTS.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Real Estate Taxes, | \$2,018 75 |
| Personal Property Taxes, | 159 38 |
| Discount on Silver, | 131 25 |
| Total, | \$2,309 38 |
| Balance in Treasury May 31, 1877, | \$1,243 04 |

Assets and Liabilities of the Society are estimated as follows:

| ASSETS. | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Lot and Building, | \$130,000 00 |
| Library, | 42,000 00 |
| Fixtures and Furniture, | 6,000 00 |
| Cash with Treasurer, | 2,053 06 |
| " " Librarian, | 99 14 |
| Dues unpaid and collectable, | 925 00 |
| Total, | \$181,077 20 |
| LIABILITIES. | |
| Union Insurance Co., Mortgage, | \$17,000 00 |
| Bills audited not paid, | 2,086 95 |
| B. Quaritch, London, | 1,563 50 |
| B. F. Stevens, " - - | 1,013 20 |
| Sundry unaudited bills, | 476 61 |
| Net assets, | 22,140 26 |
| | \$158,936 94 |

The present revenue from rents is \$875 per month, and from membership dues, \$862 10; total, \$1,737 10. Current disbursements (deducting cost of alterations) are \$1,558 10 per month.

The expenses for the past year having been very great on account of necessary alterations and improvements in the building, the Trustees have had to use more than ordinary economy in the purchase of reference books and other necessities.

In concluding the report for this year I beg leave to return my acknowledgments to the members of the Society for kindly courtesy, and to the retiring members of the Board of Trustees, for co-operation and assistance and many acts of consideration and care in the interest of the Society. More especially do I recognize in your retiring Secretary, Mr. Danl. E. Hayes, a most faithful and untiring officer, ever at his post guarding the interest of the Mechanics' Institute, and honoring himself by his disinterested attention and zeal.

A. S. HALLIDIE,
President.

June 9, 1877.

TWELFTH INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

OF THE

Mechanics' Institute,

San Francisco, 1877.

The Exhibition will open August 7th. Premiums of Medals and Cash will be awarded.

In order to secure space, application should be made as early as possible.

Information regarding the Exhibition can be obtained by applying personally or by letter, to the Secretary, 27 Post St. The Pavilion will be open for the reception of goods, Monday, July 16th.

No charge is made for space or steam power.

OFFICERS.

President,

Vice-President,

Treasurer,

Secretary,

Corresponding Secretary,

Superintendent,

A. S. HALLIDIE.

P. B. CORNWALL.

HENRY L. DAVIS.

J. H. CULVER.

E. L. RANSOME.

J. H. GILMORE.

ASA R. WELLS,

A. L. FISH,

JAS. B. STETSON,

JAS. DUFFY,

H. L. HUTCHINSON.

JAS. SPIERS,

GEORGE SPAULDING,

JAMES DRURY,

C. WATERHOUSE,

H. S. SMITH,